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LONDON**

ORGANISER

SITUATIONS VACANT

HARROW CENTRAL C.L.P.—Applications are invited for the post of **Secretary-Agent**. Salary and conditions in accordance with the terms of the National Agreement. Application forms may be obtained from **I. A. Milner, 39 Ashbourne Avenue, Harrow, Middlesex**, to whom they should be returned not later than February 28th, 1949.

BANBURY C.L.P.—Applications are invited for the post of **Full-time Secretary-Agent**. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Accommodation may be available to the successful applicant (flat suitable for couple without children). Application forms from **Mr. L. C. Walklett, 10 Addison Road, Easington, Banbury, Oxfordshire**, to whom they must be returned by March 7th, 1949.

OXFORD CITY L.P. — Applications are invited for the post of **Secretary-Agent**, the appointment to be made in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from **Mr. A. W. Dent, The Bungalow, Green Ridges, Headington, Oxford**, to whom they should be returned not later than February 28th.

CENTRAL LEEDS CONSTITUENCY L.P.—Applications are invited for the position of **Full-time Agent and Secretary**. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be had from **Councillor W. V. Stoner, York House, 21 Park Street, Leeds 1**, to whom they must be returned not later than February 15th, 1949.

BRIGG C.L.P.—Applications are invited for the post of **Secretary-Agent**. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from **Mr. H. Lewis, 183 Cliff Gardens, Scunthorpe, Lincs.**, to whom they must be returned not later than February 26th, 1949.

STEPNEY B.C.L.P.—Applications are invited for the post of **Full-time Agent**. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be had from **Coun. A. D. Bermel, Camperdown House, Half Moon Passage, London, E.1**, to whom they must be returned not later than 21st February, 1949.

BEXLEY C.L.P.—Applications are invited for the post of **Full-time Secretary-Agent**. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms from the **Secretary, Mr. T. Nihill, 102 Farnham Road, Welling, Kent**, and should be returned not later than February 24th, 1949.

CARDIGANSHIRE C.L.P.—Applications are invited for the post of **Full-time Agent**. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be had from **Mrs. Emrys Jones, J.P., Coedybryn, Synod Inn, Llandyssul, Cardiganshire**, to whom they must be returned by February 19th, 1949.

EAST WILLESDEN C.L.P.—Applications are invited for the post of **Full-time Secretary-Agent**. Salary and conditions in accordance with National Scale. Application forms from **C. J. Bloomfield, 17 Elsworth Road, London, N.W.3**, to whom they should be returned by February 24th.

COUNTY OF EAST SUSSEX.—Applications are invited for the post of **Full-time Agent** for duties in the County of East Sussex. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Scale. Application forms from **Frank Shepherd, Southern Regional Council of the Labour Party, 46 East Smithfield, London, E.1**, to whom they must be returned by not later than 24th February, 1949.

EDMONTON B.C.L.P.—Applications are invited for the post of **Full-time Agent**. Salary and conditions in accordance with National Scale. Application forms from **Mr. E. G. Cole, Secretary, 372 Fore Street, Edmonton, London, N.9**, to whom they should be returned not later than 24th February, 1949.

GOSPORT & FAREHAM C.L.P.—Applications are invited for the post of **Secretary-Agent**. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms from **Mr. F. A. Glanville, 9 Montrose Avenue, Portsmouth, Hants.**, and should be returned not later than 26th February, 1949.

SPELTHORNE C.L.P. — Applications are invited for the post of **Full-time Secretary-Agent**. Salary and conditions in accordance with National Agreement. Application forms from **Gordon R. Montserrat, 11a Poplar Road, Ashford, Middlesex**, to whom they must be returned not later than February 28th.

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On With the Fight!

THE toughest and most important local government fight in Labour's history has now been launched. With the telescoping of local election dates, the record number of more than 20,000 vacancies in England and Wales (not including parish councils) must be filled within the first few days of April and May. Every type of local authority will be holding elections, including the metropolitan boroughs. How vital it is to win these and maintain the all-important Labour London is stressed by Jim Raisin in his article on pages 10-11.

Our worst enemy remains apathy. The Registrar-General's figures tell their own tragic story of past indifference, both in the high number of uncontested seats and the low percentage of votes cast. It is our job to see that this apathy is broken down.

The Tories will be fighting hard. They will leave no stone unturned in their bitter determination to secure victory over the whole field of local government. Labour's record in local government is a proud one. We must bring home to the people that only a strong Labour representation can secure the full benefits of the Government's great progressive social legislation.

Above all, we must have an organisation capable of bringing every potential Labour voter to the polls. From now on, it's "on with the fight."

Women's Campaign Launched

The First of this Month marks the D-Day for Labour's women's campaign. No one should understand more than the average housewife the many advantages given to her and her family by the Government's great measures of social advance. In the 1950 General Election, the voice of our womenfolk may well be decisive. All power and energy to this important membership drive among Britain's women, whether they be housewives or wage-earners.

Change Over Newcastle

By JACK CLARKE, Secretary and Agent, Newcastle-upon-Tyne City L.P.

WHATEVER may be said of the methods of achievement, the Newcastle-upon-Tyne City Labour Party is now the most powerful political and social force in the city. A little over three years ago, it was little more than a name. Without an office or equipment, with a cash balance at the end of each year which would not cover the present-day postal requirements, the Party struggled on against perpetual poverty and difficulty.

To-day, the Party occupies offices in the centre of the city with modern equipment, employs a full-time Organiser and Clerical Assistant involving a wage bill of £650 per year and the bank balance stands at a little over £2,700.

Meetings of the General Committee produce discussions of a very high order and a seat on the Executive Committee means intensive competition with a long list of nominees. The Trade Union branches affiliated to the Party are taking a keen interest in its work and there is a healthy fraternity and friendship between the Party and Trade Union officers. What are the reasons for the vital changes? How, in fact, did we do it?

Interest and Enthusiasm Aroused

The agenda for every meeting of the General Committee is the result of most careful preparation. Items designed to encourage discussion of a constructive nature are deliberately introduced. There is no talking for the sake of talking, and no need to bring a speaker to our meetings to create interest. Affiliated organisations have been encouraged to appoint delegates from amongst their most capable members. Delegates are also advised to exercise care and discretion

when reporting back to their branches. A special appeal has been issued to every branch to provide space on its agenda for a City Labour Party report. The effect has been twofold—a keener competition for appointment as a delegate and a greater interest in the work of the Party. In addition, the Organiser has visited almost every branch and made personal contact with the officers and members.

An important change in the Constitution of the City Party brought direct representation from the Ward Parties, the Youth organisation and

the Central Women's Committee. Here again, the "Report Back" principle has aroused interest in the work of the City Party, improved the standard of Ward meetings and formed a firm connecting link between all sections of the movement.

One of the most powerful factors in the building up of

our solid organisation is the influence of the Central Committee of Labour Women. Its membership is drawn from every Ward Section in the city and as a result its unifying ability is tremendous. Whilst the ordinary Women's Sections retain all their normal functions, the Central Committee organise all those efforts which are beyond the capacity of single units.

In the same way, a Central Youth Council has been formed which can function on a city scale and in a co-operative manner. The great advantage of this scheme is that it enables a central body to use the resources of the whole City and provides a mobile force that can be moved anywhere at almost any time. The social value of this set up is also of great importance. A recent dance under the auspices of the Central Youth Council was an outstanding social and financial success. In the

LET'S HEAR ABOUT YOUR PARTY

Here is the first of a new series. Up and down the country, there are Parties with a staggering story of progress in the past two or three years. Let's hear the story of how your Party did it. Write to "Editor," Labour Organiser, Labour Party Press Department, Transport House, Smith Square, S.W.1.

same way, it is possible to form and finance the "Young Socialists" A.F.C. and to provide them with their football kit. The educational needs of our young members are catered for in the same way.

From November to the end of March the City Party holds meetings almost every Sunday to discuss matters of topical interest chosen by the members themselves. A syllabus is arranged and members of Parliament are booked to open the discussion. Young members of the Party are given the opportunity to take the chair and members of the audience encouraged to take part in the discussion. One of the most important features of this plan, is that the M.P.s get first-hand knowledge of what the rank and file are thinking. We have reversed the usual "A Report from Westminster" to "A Report to Westminster" which is much appreciated by the Members of Parliament.

Our "New Look" Policy

A recent decision of the Newcastle Party is a typical example of its "New Look" policy—never afraid to experiment. We have decided to try the Joint Agency scheme with two Full-time Organisers having two divisions each and working under the authority and control of the City Party. We are optimistic enough to believe that our plans will bear full fruit. Financial stability is the result of organised planning. Sow and ye shall reap. In Newcastle, we succeed because we "have a go."

Word of Warning

May I end with a word of warning, especially to the new entrant into the Agency service?—Every Party organisation has its own traditional background and an inevitable degree of conservatism. Do not gate-crash into tradition; if you must depart from usual methods be reasonably sure that your amending policy is better than the old.

The secret of our success in Newcastle can be summed up in a few words—Plan, Unify, Experiment, Co-operate. In all this, the most vital link is the degree of confidence and co-operation between the Organiser and his Executive.

Make It Snappy

HIGH marks to the "Oxford Citizen" correspondent for the following report in a recent issue:

G.M.C. BRIEFINGS

Endorsed: 25 nominations for panel of Local Government candidates.

Requested: that National Executive seek local Parties' views on major issues arising between annual conferences.

Referred Back:—to wards for their discussion—E.C. proposal to set up Central Social Committee.

Delegated:—to attend Socialist Medical Association meeting on proposed local Health Group—Mrs. Griffin and the Agent.

Applauded: appeal by League of Youth Secretary, Jeffrey Meyckle, for greater co-operation from wards.

Granted: a week's leave to the Agent, to get married in October.

Reported:—by Mrs. Thompson—that Oxford members turned up in force to County Women's Conference at Chipping Norton.

Accepted: E.C. recommendation to hold a special G.M.C. meeting on 4th October.

Two hours' talk in a nutshell!

To KEEP IN TOUCH with Labour News and Views, read the new weekly "reader interest" feature from Transport House appearing every week in "Tribune." For special terms for Labour Parties, write "Tribune" Office, 222, Strand, London, W.C.2.

THE "HERALD"

The "Daily Herald" was built to its present position by the untiring efforts of members of Local Labour Parties. To-day it stands, the only Labour daily, supporting the Party in triumph or in adversity. Agents are urged to press the sales of the "Herald" at every opportunity, and not to forget the sales of "Tribune" which now carries a new weekly news service provided by Labour Party Headquarters.

Women Prepare for 1950

By GRACE TAVENER, Women's Organiser, Southern Region

Here are some suggestions to help the new and less experienced agent to make the best use of the Women's Sections in his area when framing his election plans.

MANY agents are just now starting their work in new constituencies. They know well that all resources of "men and materials" must be used from now on with only one object—the winning of the elections—and some are wondering how best to fit into their plans members of the Women's Sections.

In offering these suggestions, it is the new and young agent that I have in mind, but they may also prove useful to others who later on find themselves responsible for election campaigns.

The young agent who finds in his new constituency a number of Women's Sections that have been in existence for many years is fortunate. If he should be invited to attend a Section meeting for the first time and should find among the twenty women present a number who are middle-aged and oldish, let him not decide that the Section is composed of old women who enjoy their afternoon tea and can be of no use in his well-planned election scheme.

Men Like Tea, Too

Men like afternoon tea and many are 50 to 60 years of age. They make very good election workers. So does the woman of 50 or 60 who has often learnt about election work by doing it for 20 years and now has more free time than ever before.

It is quite likely that she has attended more than one of the many Summer Schools, Week-end Schools or Day Schools on election work, organisation and Party policy, arranged by the Women Organisers, through the Labour Women's Advisory Councils, during the past 20 years. But in every Section there are new and young members as well who are anxious to learn, and the older ones would be glad of a "refresher course" now and then. The young agent may, therefore, find it helpful to adopt some of the following suggestions.

Women's Divisional Committee

He should meet the officers of the Women's Divisional Committee or Federation and arrange to attend their next meeting. Delegates from all the

Sections will be present, and he can make their acquaintance and tell them of his general plans. If there is no Women's Divisional Committee or Federation it will mean a visit to the Sections separately, but it is well worth while.

The Agent could offer to conduct or organise an election class (once a month possibly) for all members who wish to attend. A class for canvassing only would be useful nearer to the election, and he should get the candidate to attend some of these.

Hundreds of women have already proved themselves most efficient in taking charge of Committee Rooms and the Agent can quickly discover the most suitable members for this job and train them in his own pet methods.

Loudspeaker Techniques

After explaining plans for the Candidate's morning and afternoon tours with the loudspeaker, the Agent should train several of the women members to use the microphone and thus free the Candidate to talk with the voters. A woman's voice used properly is most effective for this work. And see that the members realise the importance of at least four of them accompanying the Candidate, to introduce him to the women voters on the doorstep.

In villages and in housing estates, it is usually better to concentrate on a well-arranged loudspeaker tour in the mornings and afternoons than to hire a hall for an indoor meeting.

If there are enough members who want a speakers' class, there is time to organise one that would be helpful so long as it is run on practical lines. The Forum method is quickest—where the class divides into teams of four and each team runs a miniature meeting, with chairman, speaker, mover and seconder of a vote of thanks. Useful hints and criticism are given by the leader, and at the next class each member plays a different part.

Although many of the Section members that you meet for the first time have been doing election work for

(Continued on page 9)

New Continent-Colony Link

TWO new appointments to the staff of the Labour Party's International Department at Transport House should give the Party fresh opportunities for developing its interest in world affairs.

The new personnel are Eric Randall, former Local Party Agent, who becomes Administrative Assistant, and Edward Farmer, assistant secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society, who will be Colonial Assistant.

Randall's job will be mainly to encourage direct contact between local organisations of the Labour Party and of Socialist Parties abroad. In the past relations between Socialist Parties have been conducted almost entirely on an official level. Despite the Labour Movement's great traditions of international solidarity, co-operation has been generally restricted to a small number of Party leaders and officials in each country.

Supplementing

The Labour Party wants to supplement this high-level contact by a continuous exchange of ideas between the rank-and-file members in all Parties. It hopes that local Party organisations, Women's Sections, Youth Groups and so on will exchange regular correspondence with similar groups abroad. When friendship and understanding have been established, Parties may arrange to exchange visits or organise joint summer schools.

Some local Parties have already developed such contacts on their own. The London and Glasgow Labour Parties each entertained fifty Socialists, trade unionists and co-operators from Austria.

Of course, the success of this new departure depends primarily on initiative and enthusiasm in the local Parties themselves. The idea is that the responsibility shall always remain with the individual groups in each country. But Head Office can help to remove some of the obstacles. Randall's job is to get the ball rolling, smooth out administrative difficulties, and see that all Parties profit by one another's experience in this field.

Farmer will be the first full-time official of the Labour Party to deal exclusively with colonial problems. Despite the Labour Government's outstanding achievements in colonial policy, the Party membership has not had sufficient opportunity to learn more of those sixty million human beings overseas for whose progress Britain is directly responsible. Yet there are at this moment over three thousand colonial students in this country whose future outlook will be determined largely by the impression they receive of democratic Socialism in action during their stay here. One of Farmer's jobs will be to encourage as much contact as possible between these students and local Labour Parties in the area where they are working.

Such contact will serve a double purpose—in increasing understanding in the British Labour Movement of the problems and outlook of the colonial peoples and in helping coloured students to appreciate the achievements of social democracy in Britain. Since the colonial students are scattered in the university towns, every Divisional Labour Party should be able to draw on the experience and knowledge of some young member of their community.

Real Danger

There has been a real danger that in the single-minded pursuit of social justice and economic recovery the Labour Movement would lose its sense of international responsibility. These new appointments should help to counteract that tendency. Local Parties which are interested in this work should write to the International Department of the Labour Party for further details.

It would be useful if local Parties which decide to give attention either to colonial or international activity could nominate an individual to keep in constant touch with Transport House on these problems. In this way the idea of International Socialism will receive new strength as a decisive element in our peace policy.

This Year's Conference Plans

By L. H. M. HILLIARD, General Secretary, Agents' Union

MAY I remind that early arrangements should be made regarding accommodation for this year's Annual Conference at Blackpool? As you are aware the Union will be providing facilities for members, who may also "book in" their delegates and M.P.'s if they wish. Early application is essential not only to ensure that no one is disappointed, but also to provide us with the necessary time to do the job properly.

This year's conference will be particularly important to Party Agents and we are planning special sessions to deal with matters of organisation. Almost certainly special consultative machinery will be set up between the Union and the N.E.C. to deal with members' views and suggestions concerning the arrangements now being made for the General Election, and this machinery will function during the period of the conference.

At a later stage, special meetings of Union members will be held to discuss plans and preparations in detail, and all members will be advised in good time and given the opportunity to attend.

Passing on the News

In the near future a News Letter will be circulated to all members detailing plans that have been made for conference. As in the past, members will apply to the General Secretary for credentials if not attending as a delegate, and we have been given an assurance that this year all facility tickets, agendas, and other information normally circulated to delegates will be posted to all Agents who have signified their intention to attend. *This should remove a grievance that has existed for some years.* Remember, however, that nothing will be made available to you unless you reply promptly to the questionnaire when it is circulated.

The Union Executive is most anxious that we shall have, this year, a record number of agents at conference and it is our hope that Divisional Labour Parties will send their agents as ex-officio delegates if they are not sending them officially. After all, it is essential that a Local Labour Party's chief officer should be at Annual Conference

for the most obvious of reasons, and it is heartening to see that this point of view is gaining support amongst the most progressive and better organised parties.

Sharing the Cost

Members will be aware that we have been discussing with the N.E.C. the possibility of extending the "Pooled Fares" system to Agents attending conference other than as delegates. The matter is still under review, but there are many difficulties. Either the Union will have to be prepared to give Head Office certain specific guarantees before the scheme can function, or alternatively have to develop some scheme of our own which will meet the needs of our members. There will certainly have to be further discussion in the matter and, in any case, it seems unlikely that, should agreement be reached, Head Office could make any arrangements in time for this year's conference.

Following last year's conference of the Union, discussions have gone on in connection with the provision of an agreed scale of subsistence allowance to Party Agents engaged in by-elections to meet reasonable "out-of-pocket" expenses. At last it seems that the N.E.C. are coming round to the Union point of view and we hope to have news soon. Information will be circulated to all members in the near future and a detailed explanation of the scheme will be made.

We have recently received a most interesting little booklet entitled "A Record of Recent Doings" issued by the National Federation of Professional Workers. Copies will shortly be circulated to all our members and from it they will be able to get a picture of the work of this body which fully deserves serious consideration. And, while talking of the Federation, a further Regional Conference is to be held in Nottingham on March 19th, and those members able to attend will find it well worth while. Application for credentials should be made to the District Secretary of the Union rather than to me.

Slow progress is being made in con-

nection with the Union's long-term proposals for the training and recruitment of Party Agents. As an organisation we have been concerned with this matter for many years. The present "Study Course Scheme" arose from proposals made by the Union, and now we are seeking to follow this up with a comprehensive scheme which will provide an opportunity for young men and women to secure practical training in the work of constituency organisation. A special meeting of the Adjustments Board is to be held in February when it is hoped the scheme will be discussed in full with all members familiar with the main proposals. When we discussed the matter at last

year's Annual Conference of the Union and heard the views of the National Agent on the memorandum, we had reasonable grounds for hoping that, in some cases, the scheme could have been implemented by now.

Progress is, however, often very slow. As a Union we have been pegging away for the "Right to Speak" at Annual Conference for some 27 years and our Pensions Scheme took nearly as long to get. We are hoping that in relation to "Training and Recruitment" our negotiations and discussions will be a little more "streamlined" and that some speedy settlement will be reached enabling the plan to function, even if only in a small way at first.

Women Prepare for 1950

(Continued from page 6)

many years, they will be delighted to make changes to fit in with your plans *if you take them into your confidence*. It will also help them to work with enthusiasm if you arrange for the new (or old) Candidate to meet them, and to take them into *his* confidence. Nearer to the election time he should be asked to attend some of the meetings of election workers (to whom he will owe so much), and help them with the correct answers to the queries they will meet when canvassing.

1949 Women's Campaign

These suggestions refer to preparations for the General Election but they can, of course, be adapted for Local Elections. Some of the work would be extremely useful in carrying out the special Women's Campaign which begins this month and includes meetings, canvassing for new members, and the distribution of a broadsheet devoted to political matters of special interest to women.

To keep in touch with all the facts you MUST read the ...

LABOUR PARTY SPEAKERS' HANDBOOK, 1948-49

The Handbook (167 pages) is available from the Labour Publications Department, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.4. Price 1s. 3d. post free.

NEW WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

The national news services of the Labour Party are to be supplemented by an entirely new weekly news service, to be published exclusively in the Socialist weekly "Tribune."

The weekly feature is to have a regular two-page spread. It will contain important Party statements as they are issued, but Michael Foot, joint Editor of the "Tribune," is co-operating with the Transport House staff to see that the highest degree of "week-end" reader interest is maintained.

The new service will not in any way conflict with the excellent service being provided by our many journals. Its publication follows a new agreement between the Labour Party Executive and the "Tribune," and Party Secretary Morgan Phillips, in a letter to all parties, is urging Party members everywhere to avail themselves of the new service. First issue appeared on January 14.

While the Labour news and views are first printed exclusively in the "Tribune," local Editors are invited to make what use they wish of them in local journals.

Coats off for the general election 4

THE BATTLE

FOR fifteen years the Tory Party has had to stomach the fact that control of the local government of the Capital of the Commonwealth has been in the hands of Labour.

Let no one minimise the implications of this situation. London, one of the greatest of the world's capitals—the famed and proud head of a great nation—London, some knowledge of which must be possessed by almost every living person—this great community has chosen freely and repeatedly that Labour shall rule its affairs.

History in the Making

That day in March, 1934, when Herbert Morrison led a majority Labour Party into the Council Chamber at London's County Hall may come to be reckoned as one of the significant dates in History, for almost certainly it marked the end of one epoch and the opening of another. Some realisation of its importance was borne in upon us then, as we—the happy and excited Party workers—looked down from the galleries and saw the first Labour Chairman of the London County Council installed. In Lord Snell, former pot boy, socialist agitator, writer and lecturer and then distinguished parliamentarian, there seemed to be personified the true relationship of the Labour Party to the British nation. This, we felt, was something different from a mere election win: more than a change in the control of a piece of the machinery of the Local Government of the country. This, we hoped was the beginning of a new form of the society of people we know as the British nation.

This is not the place to speak of the remarkable achievements of the Labour-controlled L.C.C. nor of the equally fine work done by the Labour-

controlled Metropolitan Borough Councils, a majority of which was won by Labour also in 1934 and held ever since. Like other Labour councils, wherever they exist, they have served the people faithfully and well, and no more on that score could be said. But this may be remarked: that the large-scale operations of the L.C.C. permitted the development, under Labour direction and inspiration, of ideas and institutions which have become accepted as part of the natural order of good government.

by **J. W. Raising**

● Here the London District
determination of the
again in the coming

Articles from our readers on
the all-important subject deal

Then, too, in the shaping of these events, the careers of Cabinet Ministers and other great servants of the public have been formed—and this process continues.

Such is the social and political background to the London Spring Elections of 1949. We know it: the Tory Party knows it: the public has rapidly become aware of it.

But there is another and quite different circumstance which enters into this unique occasion. **Redistribution.** Everyone knows that London was hit

OR LONDON

by the war, but fewer realise how savagely Hitler's bombs tore out the heart of the more densely populated working-class areas. By the middle of 1946 a big return of war-evacuated population had taken place in most big cities, but to the industrial boroughs of London—with their long Labour tradition—the intake was relatively small because all possible living accommodation was already greatly overtaxed.

It was, however, upon the basis of the electorate as at June 30th, 1946,

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our Party to triumph once*

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es.*

that the new constituencies had to be formed and—as the Prime Minister has said—what Hitler commenced, the Boundary Commission finished. The area of London embracing the East End and extending northwards to Islington and southwards across the River to Camberwell—a solid Labour area—had 26 constituencies, but now is reduced to 13. There are reductions elsewhere in Labour areas, too, scarcely compensated for by the disappearance of the City of London as a parliamentary constituency.

And so the scene is set. The Tory Party is attacking this central citadel of Labour's Local Government dominion. They bring to the attack ample resources of men and money, for their ranks contain many who feel that their rightful place is at the controls of power, and they are prepared to back their personal ambitions with big money raised by every device open to the Tory Party.

True to Tory philosophy, they offer no alternative **policy** to that of the Labour Party. They intend this to be a battle, not of policies and programmes, but of prestige and power. Their calculation obviously is that London's middle-class electors can be induced to vote in great numbers for Tory candidates as a protest against what they are assured are the unnecessary hardships imposed upon them by the Labour Government, in pursuit of its slavish adherence to "doctrinaire socialism."

A Great Fight

That so unworthy an approach to a great occasion is disdained by the London Labour Party it is hardly necessary to record. We shall fight a great fight, but not upon the ground chosen for us by the Tories. They will be compelled to engage us where they would least prefer it—upon their own dismal record as against Labour's massive achievement. And in this we shall show our respect for those we would serve against the Tories' contemptuous attitude towards the bulk of the electors.

The battle is about to commence. The forces are taking up their positions. Candidates have been selected and every constituency will be contested. The Constituency Labour Parties—many coming into existence but a month or two ago—are geared

(Continued on page 17)

We Need a New Ward Officer

We print below the first of a series of extracts from a memorandum on Ward Organisation drawn up by a small group from Oxford University Labour Club. Its recommendations deserve wide discussion among all those concerned with problems of organisation and readers' views and comments are welcome for publication. Members of the Committee were P. G. Newman (Chairman), A. G. N. Flew, Alan Glass, Peter Bath and Seymour Hills.

IN our view, the amount of work which has to be performed by the Ward Secretary in an active ward is excessive. Though the Organisation Handbook (p. 20) recommends that a Membership Secretary should be appointed, this seems to be nothing more than a pious wish and no emphasis is placed on its adoption.

In the group's opinion, a very definite line should be drawn between the work of the Secretary, which should be administrative, and the work of the Membership Secretary, which should become primarily organisational, and include all responsibility for organising the ward's electoral machinery, in consultation, of course, with the Secretary as an important ward official. We suggest that the term "Membership Secretary" be dropped and the name "Ward Organising Secretary" be used in its place.

All Electoral Work

The main duty of this officer would be to organise and co-ordinate all the electoral work in the ward. This would include keeping an alphabetical register of Party members cross-referenced with a register of households (by streets), number of voters, Party affiliation, etc. The Ward Organising Secretary should also be responsible for the establishment of canvass "pools" — people willing to canvass outside their own area or even ward — and for keeping a register of possible committee-rooms, halls, pitches, and bill-posting sites. He or she would know the ward in detail and be the channel of communication on ward statistics with the Constituency Party Secretary or Agent, giving a complete picture of Party membership, sympathisers and potential voters, estimate of "floating vote" and known Opposition strength.

The Ward Organising Secretary must be prepared to become the director of the ward organisation during the election period and to train assistants if

there are one or more polling districts in the ward to be staffed. He would meet regularly with the Street Secretaries (see next month's article) on the ward level and with the agent or secretary on the constituency level.

Two Complete Canvasses

The group considered that the minimum aim in every borough constituency party should be to get through two entire canvasses during the present year, so that by the end of 1949 a complete situation report can be drawn up on ward and constituency level. This would make it possible for the election campaign to be planned well in advance and for the plan to be put into immediate operation upon the dissolution of Parliament.

It is useless to try and fight an election in the dark. Every street secretary, every ward organising secretary, every agent, should know the issues uppermost in people's minds in his area, the strength of the floating vote, the strength of the Party and of the Opposition, and where Party members and sympathisers are to be found. The ward organising secretary must know what arrears are worth a last-minute canvass and which are best left alone, directing his canvassing parties accordingly. He should have a register of elderly, sick and crippled persons who require cars, a register of cars, whether supplied from his or other wards, and a knowledge of committee-room procedure. He should also check up on all postal voters in his ward.

If the preparation of records has gone on throughout 1949, no last-minute rush should be necessary. By building up during 1949 and the early months of 1950, an efficiently working electoral machine should be ready to swing into action.

By delegating the organisation of this machine in the ward to a responsible officer with sole control and no other distractions, the Party will ensure

that while the Secretary runs the ordinary administrative work, the vital electoral activity in the ward will not suffer. In many wards it may be difficult to find members with the necessary ability to take on the responsible tasks of organising secretary, and in

such cases the Secretary may have to take on this job and elect someone else to his former post.

The Labour Party exists to secure the election of Members of Parliament. In the long run, electoral efficiency comes before administrative skill.

Annual Conference

THIS YEAR'S PARTY POLICY DEBATE

AT least two full days of this year's Annual Conference, to be held in the Empress Ballroom, Winter Gardens, Blackpool from June 6—10, will be devoted to consideration and discussion of the Broad Statement of Party Policy drawn up by the National Executive Committee and sent to affiliated organisations not later than the end of March. This follows the procedure adopted in the case of *Let Us Face the Future* and in preparing the next General Election Manifesto, the N.E.C. will take into account the views and suggestions put forward during the debate.

In a circular to Affiliated Organisations Morgan Phillips states:

"It is estimated that in order to secure a thorough examination of the Statement at least two full days of

Conference time will be necessary. It is proposed to set aside one afternoon to deal with the organisation and financial requirements for the General Election. These reservations added to the time required for the Chairman's Address, the Report of the Standing Orders Committee, the Annual Report presented by the National Executive Committee, the Parliamentary Report, and the presentation of the Accounts and Balance Sheet at a private session will combine to permit of not more than 1½ days being reserved to deal with resolutions.

In these circumstances, and having regard to the importance of the proposed Statement, the National Executive Committee ask affiliated organisations to refrain as far as possible from sending in resolutions.



From Northampton comes this welcome example of what can be done by an enterprising Literature Secretary. This attractive display arranged for a Party meeting resulted in a substantial sale of Party literature.

Watch These Points

John Pinkerton stresses some important changes in the law in connection with the spring local elections.

NOW that preparations for the spring elections are under way, we want to make certain that no slips will occur to negative all our efforts.

In planning and compiling our election address and manifesto, have we been constructive and positive? Are we giving the electors a compelling and truthful statement of what we have done and what we stand for, or have we descended to mud-slinging and attack on the personal character of our opponents which may lead to actions for libel?

Let us make certain. If we have indulged in such attacks, it is vital to reconsider our statements and rewrite them on positive constructive lines.

Remember the Imprint.

The following changed law in connection with local elections calls for greater care than hitherto. All election literature, whether printed or duplicated must now bear the name and address of the printer and publisher. See that your printer is given a general instruction that all printing done for you for the election must bear the imprint. **Put such instructions to him in writing.** You will have saved a lot of worry in the long run.

Statement of Qualifications

The candidate's consent to nomination must now state how he is legally qualified, and it would be well for us to refresh ourselves on the legal qualifications for standing and being a member of the Council. Here they are:—

A person shall be qualified to be elected and to be a member of a local authority if he (or she) is of full age and a British subject, and

- (a) is a local government elector for the area of the local authority; or
- (b) owns freehold or leasehold land* within the area of the local authority; or

(c) has during the whole of the twelve months preceding the day of election resided in the area of the local authority; or

(d) in the case of a member of a parish council, has either during the whole of the twelve months preceding the day of election or since March 25 in the year preceding the year of election resided in the parish or within three miles thereof.

Agent is Compulsory

The appointment of an agent by each candidate, excepting parish councils, is a new requirement. A candidate can appoint himself as his own agent, but this is unwise. If a candidate fails to appoint an agent he will be deemed to have appointed himself, and on him will fall all the tasks and responsibilities of an election agent.

Whether the candidates for the borough or district should appoint the same agent demands careful consideration. In some instances this may be practicable, but in others it would be unfair or unwise to place the legal responsibility for a large number of candidates on the shoulders of one agent. This, however, can only be decided according to the local circumstances, but it is well to keep the point

DEADLINE

Don't forget the deadline for the receipt of all contributions — the 15th of the month for publication the following month.

That applies to advertisements as well as articles. Send them all to The Editor, Labour Organiser, Transport House, Smith Square, S.W.1.

Let's hear what your Party is doing!



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in mind. In any case notification of the appointment of agent will have to be made by each candidate to the R.O. on the prescribed form.

Any affiliated organisation such as a Trade Union Branch or Co-op Guild or Society wishing to issue a leaflet to its members on behalf of a candidate or to spend any money in any way to further such a candidature, will have to secure written authority from the agent of the candidate for such expenditure; and both the organisation and the agent will have to make a return of such expenses to the R.O.

This is a point which must be very carefully watched, as any error will lead to difficulty, both for the candidate, the agent and the organisation concerned.

A point to be remembered about nomination papers is that only the required number of signatures will be allowed. In the past it has been common practice for agents to get nine or ten signatures of assenters instead of eight as allowed for on the form. Now only eight assenters' signatures will be

recognised, and if any one is wrong the paper will be invalid.

Agents would be well recommended to duplicate a set of instructions on the filling up of nomination forms, as this is one of the most important jobs of the election.

Attention and thought given to these points will be well worth while now, for in the end all concerned in the election will be saved a deal of unnecessary worry.

*"Land" is held to include buildings on the land. The owner or lessee of a house or flat is apparently a constructive "owner of the land in law."

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Every Agent will find the new Explanatory Memorandum on the Control of Advertisements Regulations invaluable for clarification and reference. Copies are now available from H.M. Stationery Office, York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, price 3d. or 5½d., post free.



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Let us Organise for Victory

By FRANK G. MOXLEY, South Wales Organiser, N.C.L.C.

Only a Party of active members, prepared to subjugate their own interests to the cause of the Labour Movement, can ensure our success at the polls.

THE Labour Party is faced with one of the gravest problems it has had to face in its history. It is a period of re-adjustment, when a mistake can easily mean a serious break in the continuity of the struggle of the working-class.

It seems to me that to-day we have a Party in which many of the leaders and officials are unwilling to work hard unless there is the prospect of payment. People in the Movement will not sacrifice money, time and energy on behalf of the Labour Party. Fees, expenses, and even salaries are demanded as a prerequisite to effort. There are notable exceptions. But the tendency is there and it is growing.

We hear on all sides that men and women go into the Party for what they can get out of it and not for what they can put into it.

Stop The Drift

Unless that drift is stopped and stopped immediately the Party will be gravely weakened at a time when it should be growing in strength, influence and importance. Our opponents, with their dishonest propaganda, their control of the means of the dissemination of news and views, their financial powers, are intensifying their efforts.

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Let us not assume that they will fail. Many people do not realise what the Government has done—what miracles they have performed. There is a wide and appalling sense of selfishness abroad to-day, and the mass of the people will not return Labour to power again merely on this basis of having done a good job.

Though economic conditions lay the foundations for our political beliefs, elections are won and lost on other grounds.

Remember how a nation can be aroused in wartime to fight and even to die for an idea, however fallacious that idea is. They have everything to lose, materially. It is far from the truth to aver that they fight for their hearths and homes. Churchill, the orator, is no mean exponent of this practice, but I do not believe that he is deceived by it.

Every Individual Counts

The Party must accept this fact. It must awake to the need for action—the right action. It must rid itself of all "passengers" and those who are not sincere in their belief in Democratic Socialism. It must educate the Party. Every day and every individual counts. Education will weed out those who are weak, and gradually mould its followers into a solid mass of people who are passionately devoted to the cause of the Labour Movement, who are completely prepared to subjugate their own interests for those of the Movement, who will work every minute they have to ensure that the Party wins its struggle for power, who will do this without thought of reward. What an ideal!

That ideal can and must become a fact. Unless it does, we risk defeat. Before it is too late we must forge that body of workers to fight and to fight desperately for power. The Party will survive only if it has this strong, purposeful, and confident army with sincere commanders and troops who believe in the thing they fight for.

With this army in the field success can become inevitable. The Labour Party has a proud record; its Government has improved the material wel-

are of the mass of the people beyond anything thought possible after the destructive war that preluded its rise to power. Party members should be delighted to spread this wonderful knowledge. They should show their indignation when it is misrepresented. They should be anxious at all times to defend the record of the Labour Government. They will be if they are the right people and if they are rightly led and trained.

How can the Party forge this body? Here are my suggestions:—

(1) Every new member should be accepted on the understanding that he or she will be active. The Party should reject all others.

(2) All members should be expected to attend educational classes. The N.C.L.C. is an organisation committed to education for social change, and is an educational organisation for a dynamic party.

(3) All officers should be thoroughly tested and trained for their vital jobs. It is better to disband a small Party than for it to be wrongly led.

(4) Tasks should be allocated to members. Penalty of loss of membership should be imposed. Firmness with fairness should be the motto.

(5) A general quickening of activity in propaganda should be aimed at immediately. Bands of workers should be out several times a week, teaching the people, persuading, answering questions and criticisms, being friendly in all their relations, even with antagonists. They must all the time be positive in their approach, confident in manner, and steadfast in their determination to cause people to trust their future to the Labour Party.

This is the way to build up a strong and virile Party. A Party that gives opportunity to its more vigorous members will succeed. There is no room for "passengers" is the adage that should be constantly in the forefront of organisation.

The fight is on. We can win. But we shall have to tighten up our organisations to ensure success. And defeat is unthinkable.

The Battle for London

(Continued from page 11)

up, with Election Agents in operation.

Centrally, the substantial publicity and propaganda of the two opposing forces is being given its final touches. So far as the printed word is concerned the fight will be conducted almost entirely on materials centrally produced. In this, the London Labour Party has great experience and has always set the pace hitherto. Its campaign of 16-sheet posters, syndicated two-colour illustrated election address, illustrated two-colour eight-page broadsheet ("London Pride") and a variety of leaflets has always aroused great public interest. There is no doubt that it will do so again this time.

High Cost of Publicity

The high cost of a publicity campaign capable of making an impression on a population of the size of London's can be imagined, and the London Labour Party has no illusions about the magnitude of its task. We are assured, however, of the generous support of the Trade Unions and of many private individuals.

But neither money nor clever publicity alone can win a fight like this. In this later Battle for London two powerful forces are opposed with material resources not too unevenly matched. The decisive factor in such a situation is the WILL TO WIN.

I am happy to report that the Party in London is at a high pitch of enthusiasm, fully aware of the great responsibility that rests upon it and resolved to give of its utmost in this great contest.

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Summer Schools Rush

REQUESTS for places at this year's Labour Party National Summer School are reaching Transport House in such numbers that very early application is essential for those who have not already written in.

One possible reason for this unprecedented rush is that the schools will be the last before the 1950 General Election and important matters are due for lecture and discussion. Demand will obviously exceed supply and as far as possible the organisers will allocate the places fairly between applicants from the various local parties and organisations.

Already some parties have established scholarships to pay for the school fees and accommodation of one or more of their members. Those who have not done so are urged to write as soon as possible for application forms to The Secretary, The Labour Party, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1. The charge, including accommodation, is £5 5s. for one student for the full week.

There are three centres: Oulton Hall Hotel, Clacton-on-Sea; St. John's College, Durham University; and Beatrice Webb House, Dorking, Surrey.

Students for the Clacton School will be able to choose between the week commencing June 11th and that commencing June 18th. Those attending Durham — where the course is being run in conjunction with the Durham section of the National Union of Mineworkers — have the choice of weeks commencing July 2nd or 9th, and those at Beatrice Webb House weeks commencing August 27th, September 3rd, or September 10th.

Attractive Programmes

Programmes at each of the schools will include General Election Programme, Electoral Organisation, and Modern Publicity. Durham and Beatrice Webb House will include, in addition, the subject of Local Government, and for the two weeks commencing August 27th and September 3rd there will be an International Course at Beatrice Webb House only.

At each centre accommodation and amenities are excellent, and there will be top-line speakers.

St. John's College at Durham looks down over the Cathedral, the Castle and the River Gorge, in a most picturesque setting. And the ancient cathedral city provides modern holiday town amenities in addition to its quiet and culture.

Beatrice Webb House accommodates 110 students and stands in a magnificent position on the Western slopes of Leith Hill, over 600 feet above sea level, with grounds of 130 acres and views reaching to the South Downs.

Many Amenities

Oulton Hall, with accommodation for 170 students, is one of the largest and most modern hotels in Clacton. In the quieter part of the town it is only five minutes' walk from the main shopping centre, is centrally heated throughout, and has a sun roof and large sprung ballroom among its many other amenities.

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Special literature prepared by Headquarters for the spring local elections is now available. Here are the main publications:

Illustrated News Sheet

'What does this picture mean?'—price 30/- per 1,000 copies, carriage paid.

Posters

'Labour Party Meeting' posters—a useful and striking 'signpost' for calling attention to Labour meetings in schools and public buildings; white on red or black on yellow; 30 by 20 in., price: 1 poster 6d.; 12, 5s., carriage paid.

'Labour Committee Rooms' posters—white on red or black on yellow; 30 by 20 ins., price: 1 poster 6d.; 12, 5s., carriage paid.

Strips

Strips suitable for cars, windows, sticking over Labour posters, etc:

- (i) 'Vote Labour'—price 12, 6d.; 100, 5s., carriage paid. Red on White, 4 by 15 ins.
- (ii) 'Labour believes in Britain'—price 12, 1s.; 100, 10s., carriage paid. Red, white and blue, 4 by 15 ins.

Leaflets

'Jobs' (carriage paid: 15s. per 1,000 copies)
'Labour leads the way' (carriage paid: 15s. per 1,000 copies.)

Booklets

Guide to Post-war Housing Policy (post free: 1 copy 7d.; 12, 5s.; 100 £1 15s.)

Speakers' Handbook 1948-9 (post free: 1 copy 1s. 3d.; 12, 10s.; 25, £1; 50, £1 17s. 6d.; 100, £3 10s.)

Local Government Handbook 1946-7 and Supplement 1947-8 (post free: 1 copy of Handbook with Supplement 1s. 6d.)

Conduct of Local Elections (post free: 1 copy 1s. 5d.; 6, 6s.; 12, 11s.; 25, £1.)

Standing Orders for Labour Groups on Local Authorities

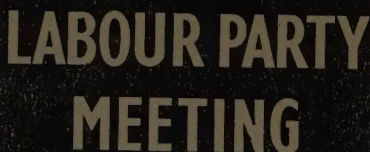
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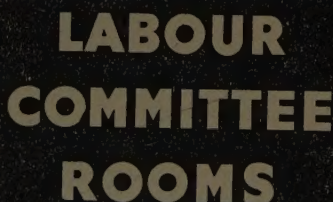
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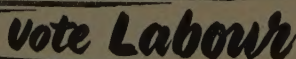
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